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UPHOLSTERY TEXTILES.

IN upholstery textiles the present season has brought out an unprecedented array of mixtures of silk and cotton, silk and wool, and silk and linen in great variety of patterns. Owing to the moderate cost of silk, satin, damasks and brocades now compete in price with silk plush. Our successful purveyors of furniture coverings and room hangings are to be credited with a large share of esthetic taste in their selection of patterns forwarded from Europe in advance, and frequent suggested modifications of these so as to meet special or general requirements. The orders of the trade now include sets of specific size. Some New York houses have even their own mills, and salaried designers abroad. The artists to whom we owe the wealth of textile devices now obtainable are fired with ambition to excel in choice novelties, so as to secure conspicuous vantage ground. Wholesale firms in this line co-operate in a manner with designers by quick observance of the course and tendency of fashion, and by an instinctive habitude of taking into account styles

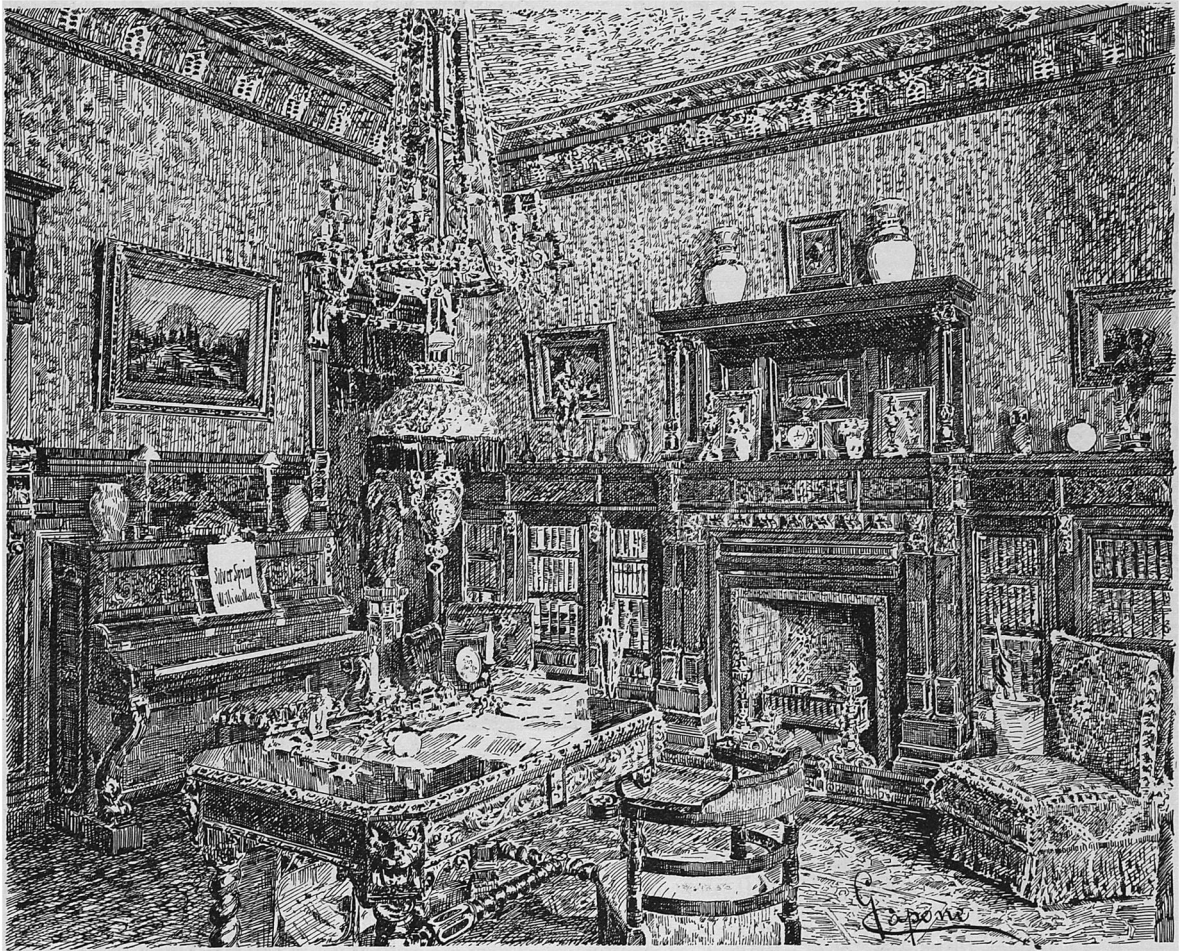
and their brilliant colors are useful for contrastive effects, the latter with felicitous arrangement of hues are to be admired also for their delicate treatment of form, appealing to the highest sense of beauty.

In the season's fabrics there is a good proportion of designs executed in a few colors or shade of one color. Among prominent and specially attractive goods may be enumerated silk plush embossed in patterns after Morris and other famous designers, ravishing the eye with the tasteful beauty of the figures and the ground, leading colors being green, gold, crimson and electric blue and light browns; plush with raised figures, the material being all the more effective from presenting changes of shade according to the position of the observer; satin damasks and brocades for drawing-room and parlor furniture and curtains in arabesque and flower and leaf patterns, reversible linen velours in all colors for curtains and hangings, and velours with same pattern on one side for furniture, also new mottled hair plush for the same purpose, the play of hues on which in the variations of light, produces fine effects.

There are old Gobelin styles of tapestry that

background, much of the charming effect obtained from light tinged by a tinted cloud shining through the interstices of banks of thick-set flowering plants. Small arabesque figures have been especially designed for chairs and sofas carved in antique style. A variation is found in disposing separate groups of figures in different directions. A pretty effect in damask goods used as a sofa covering may be noted, the ground being all plain with the exception of a flower woven in tapestry style and lying at one end towards the outer edge as if carelessly dropped. It was worth a whole field of flowers. Truly, art is most attractive when it seems unstudied. But why dwell on the ornate productions of the hour, when the compositions themselves are so readily accessible?

Much of the charm of textiles lies in their general tone. Among choice pattern effects are terra cotta, pink, and deep silver blue on a ground of silver green, old gold, yellow, and greenish blue gray on olive ground, silver green and mahogany color on a ground of silver white. Lavender color is to be seen in many delicate shades. Of grounds in delicate colors are eau de Nile, ivory, light olive, gold, blue in daintiest shades, and Jean



ARRANGEMENT OF LIBRARY IN A PROMINENT NEW YORK RESIDENCE, FROM DESIGN BY L. R. HARTUNG.

of furniture and even of dress goods. House decorators rejoice in the variety of textile productions, being always on the watch for new effects, it being their especial pride never to furnish two rooms alike, and for this the scope for choice in coverings and hangings under the limitation of due regard to appropriateness, aids them in an important degree.

The best designers of present upholstery textiles have manifestly drank deeply of the inspiration of those glorious periods when the art of design in so many branches reached the zenith of excellence, reproducing in embossed velours, in appliqué work on silk, in old Gobelin styles of tapestries, patterns that are positively entrancing for the skill shown in the selection, disposition, and spacing of colors.

The characteristic aspect of Eastern textiles, designs in which color is everything and form nothing, being but a vehicle for striking hues, contrasts strongly with Western productions with their distinctive patterns and gracefulness of detail. The former can offer harmonious coloring,

are really superb, also French copies of tapestry effects of fifteenth century cretonnes. There is a jute velour in soft colors exceedingly attractive. As suited for drapery, a worsted textile with sheen effect has been introduced. Turcoman curtains, silk sheeters, are seen of exceedingly fine quality, commanding as much as \$100 per pair, but other Turcoman curtains can be had at a fourth that sum. French sash and vestibule curtains of pongee silk are in all colors and shades from light green to deep red.

Burmese reversible silk is a novelty for portières, with delicate hues and semi-transparent effects. For portières there has been introduced a mummy cloth which may be described as a slightly shadowed yellow, its sober tones being set off by broad bands of brilliantly tinted silver plush.

Some rich designs in old English style have the ground almost covered with flowers and convoluted scrolls, the stems being hidden by leaves. In these, besides the color beauty of the delineations, there is, with a white, golden, or silvery

d'Arc. Rich fringes for furniture coverings are supplied in pompons and Turkish tassels. Loose squares of satin with flowers embroidered in fine silk and with corners adorned with rich colored ribbons are used for tidies, in addition to laces. Loose satin coverings with tassels are used for table upholstery.

Prominent among upholstery laces are Renaissance and Colbert. Brussels and Flanders handmade laces are always, of course, in fashion. Lace tidies are produced to match the curtains. Exceedingly rich patterns are being brought forward in all-wool table covers, set off with deep velvet plush borders appliqué.

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